

WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

1. A liquid developer for developing a latent image on a latent image carrier comprising colored particles made of a resin and a colored substance and a liquid provided as a dispersion medium of the colored particles, wherein the liquid contains a dispersion-facilitating substance for facilitating dispersion of the colored particles in the liquid, and wherein the dispersion-facilitating substance is charged with polarity opposite to polarity of the colored particles and incorporated in the liquid at a ratio of 0.05 to 20 parts by weight per part by weight of the colored particles.

2. A liquid developer as claimed in claim 1, wherein the dispersion-facilitating substance has, on its surface, a polar group having polarity opposite to the polarity of the colored particles.

3. A liquid developer as claimed in claim 2, wherein the dispersion-facilitating substance has at least one of a carboxyl group and a hydroxyl group as the polar group.

4. A liquid developer as claimed in claim 1, wherein the dispersion-facilitating substance has an average molecular weight of 1,000 or more.

5. A liquid developer as claimed in claim 1, wherein the dispersion-facilitating substance is one of methyl methacrylate (acryl) and a compound mainly composed of methyl methacrylate (acryl).

6. A liquid developer as claimed in claim 5, wherein the compound is a graft copolymer.

7. A liquid developer as claimed in claim 6, wherein the liquid is silicone oil and the graft copolymer has a graft portion containing silicone.

8. A liquid developer as claimed in claim 6, wherein the graft copolymer has an average molecular weight of 500 to 10,000.

9. A liquid developer as claimed in claim 1, wherein the liquid is an aprotic liquid.

10. A liquid developer as claimed in claim 9, wherein the liquid has a viscosity of 10 to 1,000 mPa·S, an electric resistance of $1 \times 10^{12} \Omega \cdot \text{cm}$ or more, a surface tension of 30 dyne/cm or less, and a boiling point of 100°C or more.

11. A liquid developer as claimed in claim 10, wherein the liquid is a silicone liquid that contains at least one of phenylmethyl siloxane, dimethyl polysiloxane, and polydimethyl cyclosiloxane.

12. A liquid developer as claimed in claim 1, wherein the dispersion-facilitating substance is of a granular form.

13. A liquid developer as claimed in claim 12, wherein the dispersion-facilitating substance has an average particle size of 0.001 to 1 μm .

14. A liquid developer as claimed in claim 1, wherein the colored particles have a volume average particle size of 0.1 to 6.0 μm and a concentration of 5 to 40 wt%.

15. A liquid developer as claimed in claim 1, wherein the colored particles have, on their surface, the dispersion-facilitating substance, a basic group, and an affinity group that provides an affinity to the liquid.

16. A liquid developer as claimed in claim 15, wherein the liquid contains, in addition to the colored

particles, a charge control agent having compatibility to the liquid and having an acidic group.

17. A liquid developer as claimed in claim 15, wherein the liquid contains, in addition to the colored particles, a charge control agent having compatibility to the liquid and having a basic group.

18. A liquid developer as claimed in claim 15, wherein the liquid contains, in addition to the colored particles, a charge control agent having compatibility to the liquid and having a metal.

19. A liquid developer as claimed in claim 1, wherein the colored particles have, on their surface, the dispersion-facilitating substance, an acidic group, and an affinity group that provides an affinity to the liquid.

20. A liquid developer as claimed in claim 19, wherein the liquid contains, in addition to the colored particles, a charge control agent having compatibility to the liquid and having an acidic group.

21. A liquid developer as claimed in claim 19, wherein the liquid contains, in addition to the colored

particles, a charge control agent having compatibility to the liquid and having a basic group.

22. A liquid developer as claimed in claim 19, wherein the liquid contains, in addition to the colored particles, a charge control agent having compatibility to the liquid and having a metal.

23. An image forming apparatus, comprising:
a latent-image bearing member; and

developing means for developing a latent image on a surface of the latent image carrier by applying a liquid to the latent-image, wherein

the liquid developer contains colored particles made of a resin and a colored substance and a liquid provided as a dispersion medium of the colored particles, and

the liquid contains a dispersion-facilitating substance for facilitating dispersion of the colored particles in the liquid, and the dispersion-facilitating substance is charged with polarity opposite to the polarity of the colored particles and incorporated in the liquid at a ratio of 0.05 to 20 parts by weight per part by weight of the colored particles.